

### **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the subject application:

#### **Listing of Claims**

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:  
  
an input/output (I/O) device being operative to:  
  
receive a fragment of electronic data from a node on a network;  
  
determine characteristics of the fragment of electronic data;  
  
~~examine the fragment of electronic data; and~~  
  
moderate one or more interrupts to a processor of an interrupt scheme on  
~~an associated computing platform processor~~ if the characteristics  
of the fragment of electronic data indicate that the fragment of  
electronic data is comprises latency-sensitive data.
2. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the latency-sensitive data comprises an acknowledgement (ACK).
3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said I/O device comprises a network interface card (NIC).
4. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the latency-

sensitive data comprises one or more data packets that have a priority designation.

5. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said I/O device is operative to moderate by substantially immediately asserting said one or more interrupts of said associated computing platform processor.
6. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said I/O device is operative to moderate by deferring said one or more interrupts of said associated computing platform processor so that a predetermined number of interrupts per unit of time is not exceeded.
7. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said I/O device is operative to moderate by deferring said one or more interrupts until a particular number of fragments of electronic data of a particular type are received by said I/O device.
8. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said I/O device is operative to moderate by deferring said one or more interrupts until a particular quantity of electronic data is received.
9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said moderation of associated computing platform interrupt scheme is configurable through a user interface.
10. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:

said I/O device further being operative to measure a particular period of time after the receipt of a fragment of electronic data, and to moderate one or more interrupts of an associated computing

platform after said particular period of time has elapsed.

11. (Currently Amended) A method of moderating one or more interrupts of an associated computing platform comprising:

receiving a fragment of electronic data from a node on a network;

determining characteristics of the fragment of electronic data;

~~examining the fragment of electronic data; and~~

moderating one or more interrupts to a processor of an interrupt scheme

~~on an associated computing platform processor~~ if the

characteristics of the fragment of electronic data indicate that the

fragment of electronic data is comprises latency-sensitive data.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein said latency-sensitive data comprises an acknowledgement (ACK).
13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein said latency-sensitive data comprises one or more data packets that have a priority designation.
14. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein said moderating comprises substantially immediately interrupting said associated computing platform processor.
15. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein said moderating comprises deferring said one or more interrupts of said associated computing